

future. It's your money, and it's your choice. And you can feel comfortable spending your refund check if you want to, because there is more to come. These checks are just one installment of tax relief, the result of lowering the current lowest income tax bracket of 15 percent to a new, lower 10 percent bracket.

Some reductions in tax rates went into effect on July 1st and already evident in lowering withholding of taxes from your paycheck. More reductions are coming in the months and years to come. The child credit will increase this year; the marriage penalty will be reduced; the death tax will ultimately be repealed. It's all part of the tax relief plan passed into law earlier this summer.

For many of you, this refund is coming just when you need it. Over the last few years, energy prices and credit card debt have been rising, and many families have felt the squeeze. These checks will help provide timely relief.

And by helping tens of millions of Americans, we will help our economy. Beginning late last summer and early fall, our economy, especially the manufacturing sector, began slowing. The combination of this tax relief and lower interest rates should help get it moving again.

I thank all of those who have supported this tax relief for the past year and a half, since I first proposed it during my campaign in the State of Iowa. I thank all the Republicans and many Democrats in Congress who joined me to make it a reality. Some of those Members are with you here today, including Trent Lott and House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas. I want to thank those fine leaders.

I also thank Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill for his strong leadership. Of course, I want to thank my friend the Vice President of the United States, Dick Cheney. No better Vice President has ever existed in the United States. For all those who—[*applause*]. And that's saying something, since I knew another Vice President, by the way.

For all those who feel their taxes and bills are too high, and they could use a little help, help is on the way.

Thank you all very much. It's an honor to represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth here in Italy. I look forward to

seeing you when I come home. In the meantime, God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 6:02 p.m. from the Sala Atlantico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 15

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House. Later, he and Mrs. Bush hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

July 16

The President announced his intention to nominate Marie T. Huhtala to be Ambassador to Malaysia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Ann Solberg to be Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott M. Burns to be Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs in the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his designation of David Curtis Williams as Acting Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his nomination of Gen. John P. Jumper to be Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

July 17

The President announced his intention to nominate Donna J. Hrinak to be Ambassador to Brazil.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: John Nau, Bernadette Castro, Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona, and Robert Young.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Grant D. Aldonas, Donald Cameron Findlay, Paula J. Dobriansky, Lorne W. Craner, and James Andrew Kelly.

July 18

In the morning, the President met with Seeds of Peace program participants on the South Steps of the White House. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to London, United Kingdom, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cynthia Shepard Perry to be U.S. Director of the African Development Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven A. Williams to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate James B. Lockhart III to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold Craig Manson to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey D. Jarrett to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement at the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph M. Clapp to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Safety Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark W. Everson to be Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management in the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Wolf to be Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Earl N. Phillips to be Ambassador to Barbados.

July 19

In the morning, the President met with UK Conservative Party leader William Hague in the Gold Room at Winfield House, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. Later, the President and Mrs.

Bush participated in an event for children in the Reading Room of the British Museum. The President then visited the Cabinet War Rooms museum.

In the afternoon, following an arrival ceremony at Buckingham Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. Later, they went to Chequers, the British Prime Minister's country residence in Aylesbury, England, as guests of Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie.

In the evening, the President went to Royal Air Force Halton station and later returned to Chequers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald E. Neumann to be Ambassador to Bahrain.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linton F. Brooks to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Benigno G. Reyna to be Director of the U.S. Marshals Service.

July 20

In the morning, the President traveled to Genoa, Italy.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Turner to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

The President announced his intention to designate Glenn L. McCullough, Jr., as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.
